

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. VII, No. 12, December, 1909

From Some Editorial Notes:

The End of a Volume.—The present issue completes the seventh volume of your *Journal*, which compares very favorably with the preceding volumes. The *Journal* is your own journal; the articles in it are your own productions, and if they do not come up to the mark to which you think they should come, it is your own fault. Physicians in California are doing as good work as any in any State in the land, and are doing better work today, on an average, than ten years ago. And your *Journal* has helped somewhat. . . . What the *Journal* shall be is all in the hands of the members of the Society; the better their work for their county society and for the State Society, the better will be the material which goes out to the world in their own *Journal*. Let us all keep eternally at it—improving, building, enlarging, progressing, always striving for better work, for better results, for progress in medicine at home, and for a closer knitting together of our several units into solid societies, each working for the greater benefit of our charge, the public health.

Animal Experimentation.—The address of Charles W. Eliot, delivered on Ether Day at the Massachusetts General Hospital, appears in a recent issue of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*. The ex-President of Harvard surveys the field of medicine from a mountain-top, and so broad and comprehensive is his horizon that his view will be of interest to every practitioner. His arguments for animal experimentation deserve a wider reading than the columns of this excellent journal afford. . . .

Tropical Medicine.—It is not any longer necessary to emphasize before the medical profession of this State the special position of responsibility to the nation that California occupies in the matter of tropical medicine. The importance of the subject demands a recognition on the part of the whole profession of the Pacific Coast of the various so-called tropical diseases which are now present in, or may at any time invade our territory. . . .

Cholera in Russia.—The reports of thousands of deaths from the epidemic of Asiatic cholera now raging in European Russia furnish an instance of a "tropical" disease invading a temperate and arctic region. . . .

Pellagra.—Pellagra in the United States is a curious illustration of a disease long unrecognized but found to be common when once the general profession learned to diagnose it. . . .

Address of Dr. Henry Gibbons, Jr., at the Commencement Exercises, Medical Department, Leland Stanford, Jr., University.—My few words are but a brief and partial historical sketch of the development of medical education in California. Fifty years have elapsed since the establishment of the first medical college on this western coast, largely through the instrumentality of Elias Samuel Cooper, for whom Cooper Medical College was named. I find, by reference to the meager minutes of this early period, that the trustees of the

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, page 22)

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"The United States Supreme Court in effect yesterday refused to set aside fraud orders issued by the Post Office Department against Dr. Clayton E. Wheeler, self-described gland specialist of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Doctor Wheeler resides at 535 Powell Street. The court declined to review the action of the Federal District Court for Southern California, sustaining the post office orders, according to the Associated Press. Doctor Wheeler is accused of making misleading statements in his advertising literature, including exaggerated claims as to the effectiveness of his gland treatment for senility. Doctor Wheeler claimed that the fraud order was depriving him of daily mail containing checks and money orders. His practice of selling home treatment by mail has been discontinued, Doctor Wheeler said." (San Francisco *Chronicle*, November 6, 1934.)

"From time to time the question of whether or not the giving of an anesthetic constitutes the practice of medicine and comes under the Medical Practice Act, has been raised by certain doctors of medicine. . . . Although legal opinions have been rendered on the subject from time to time to the effect that the giving of an anesthetic *per se* is not the practice of medicine, there has been no record of the case having been tried in the courts. . . ." said an article published in the *Western Hospital Review*, September, 1934, issue, which article contained in full the findings of fact and conclusions of law, as rendered by Judge Allen B. Campbell in a case tried in Los Angeles.

"Dr. R. D. Brisbane, Superintendent of Sutter Hospital, last night warned Sacramento residents against what he termed the fake sale of health service. Two men, Doctor Brisbane said, are operating here, selling health insurance for a dollar a month, which supposedly entitles the purchaser to hospitalization in any hospital and choice of any doctor in case of illness. The Superintendent said the California Hospital Association has not authorized the sale of such insurance." (Sacramento *Union*, October 19, 1934.)

"Dr. Robert E. Haslett, Chico chiropractor, formerly of Sacramento, is free on a \$2,000 bond following his arrest and arraignment yesterday on a charge of violation of Section 274 of the Penal Code by performance of an abortion on an Orland wife, already the mother of three children. . . . Haslett was arraigned before Justice of the Peace L. E. Newton, who issued the warrant. The complaint recites the operation was performed in Chico on October 22, last, and that it was not necessary to preserve the patient's life. . . ." (Sacramento *Bee*, November 14, 1934.)

"One woman was shot and killed and another critically wounded today and shortly afterward Dr. William J. Jacobs, forty-five, prominent physician, was placed under arrest on suspicion of murder. . . ." (Press dispatch, dated Santa Barbara, November 7, and printed in the San Francisco *Examiner*, November 8, 1934.)

"His motion for a new trial denied, Augusto Monasterio, convicted recently on two counts of practicing medicine without a license, was sentenced yesterday

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, page 23)